Protection of Charminar

137. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the neglect of ASI the appliquee designs in stucco work of Charminar in Hyderabad are losing their adhesive strength due to constant vibrations and pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what corrective measures Government have taken in this regard to protect Charminar?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Loss of adhesive strength in the stucco plaster is a natural phenomena due to ageing and vibrations induced by vehicular traffic.

(c) The affected portion, of the applique stucco plaster has been restored.

In addition a strip of land around Charminar has been taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India as a buffer to reduce the impact of vibrations from heavy vehicular traffic.

Safety of monuments in Andhra Pradesh

138. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the expenditure incurred on the safety of Archaeological Survey of India monuments in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise, till date;

(b) the details of the monuments in the State that have been provided safety till date; and

(c) the number of monuments expected to be provided safety during the next year *i.e.* 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India has